journey by Air on LTC to North-Eastern Region and Andaman & Nicobar Islands etc. because of financial constraints and other administrative difficulties. There is no proposal to permit the same also.

Representation regarding Rehabilitation

*274. SHRI V.N. GADGIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation regarding rehabilitation from Jagdamba Anusuchit, Jati Shetkari Vinkari Sahakari Soot Girni Niyamit, Madhya District Sholapur, Maharashtra;

(b) whether Government propose to give grant under Section 59 of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act; and

(c) whether Government propose to give grant under Article 280 read with Article 46 of the Constitution of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

Recommendations on the New Telecom Policy

*275. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister has constituted a 12-Member Group on Telecommunications to make recommendations on the new Telecom Policy and sort out outstanding issues with the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) as reported in the Hindustan Times, dated the 21st November, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating whether any representation to telecom industry related Associations and TRAI also has been given in the newly set up group; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) how much time Government would take to formulate its new telecom policy as well as a separate Telecom Service Board?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A Group on Telecommunications (GOT) under the Chairmanship of Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission has been constituted to make recommendations on:

(i) Proposed New Telecom Policy;

(ii) Issues relating to the existing licensees of basic and cellular services and suggest appropriate remedial measures within the framework of the New Telecom Policy; and

(iii) Issues relating to TRAI.

Though in the said Group, no representation to telecom industry related Association and TRAI has been given, the Group will hold wider discussion and interaction with Industry and Trade as well with knowledgeable persons in the telecom sector, both official as well as non-official, while making recommendations on the New Telecom Policy.

The Group will submit its recommendations as early as possible.

As regards a separate Telecom Service Board, a Working Group is to work out the composition and functions of the proposed Board.

Public Harassment by Telemarketing Companies

*276 SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news-item published in the "Economic Times" dated the 24th November, 1998, captioned "Privacy issue may threaten telemarketing";

(b) whether it is a fact that no guidelines have been brought out by Government to ensure that public is not harassed by telemarketing companies;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in cities like Delhi, telemarketing has become a nuisance for ordinary salarised class;

(d) in what way Government propose to ensure that strict guidelines are there to see that public is not harassed by telemarketing; and

(e) the details of measures proposed in this regard?